

MS. CHOWER: Okay. Hello. My name is Carole Chower. And I'm a resident of Grand Junction, Colorado. And I am a very active conspiracy therapist -- anyway, I'm an environmentalist and [indiscernible]. I'm here because I care about the earth, the house of all living things on the earth. And coal has a negative effect on health. My most intimate experience with coal was when I

had a house-sitting job in Telluride, Colorado, for three months in the coldest part of the winter. There was a big coal furnace downstairs. We had to shovel it in. We had to rake out the clinkers and haul them out to the curb. I suffered burns from the clinkers. But, more than that, suffered health consequences for those three months. So, personally, I would never again live in a place that was heated by coal.

I am a retired teacher, currently doing a little bit of subbing. Years ago in Southern California [indiscernible] much like this when they talked about taking lead out of gasoline.

When they did, the effect on the air, the effect on the health of the children -- and I taught first and second grade, was pretty dramatic. There were days where we had to keep them inside because the air was so polluted with smog that it was unhealthy to go out.

But, change comes hard. I can also speak from the point of view of someone whose father lost his job in a downturn and spent over two years struggling to find something else to support his family.

I didn't realize how poor we were until I got out and started earning my own living. It is hard when you lose your job. But, it's hard when you are faced with the prospect. But, you need to be prepared for it.

I've had to adapt through the years, selling a business when my back could no longer handle the physical aspects of it. So, we need to be prepared because coal is not the answer for the long term. It's on the wane. The market forces are driving it out.

And please, please consider first of all, health.

Dr. Sussors nailed it. Kristin Winn spoke to that, and a few others have. Health. The health of the children, the health of the earth, the health of all living things. Thank you.